

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS :

1. A watercraft comprising a hull, an internal combustion engine disposed in the hull, the engine having an air intake system through which air is delivered to a combustion chamber of the engine, a sensor arranged to detect overturn of the hull, a control device configured to stop an operation of the engine based upon an output of the sensor, and a blocking device arranged in the air intake system to inhibit water from moving toward the combustion chamber under control of the control device.

2. The watercraft as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the sensor comprises an overturn switch installed on the hull.

3. The watercraft as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the overturn switch generates the output when the hull inclines over a preset inclination.

4. The watercraft as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the control device controls the blocking device to inhibit the water from moving toward the combustion chamber based upon the output of the overturn switch.

5. The watercraft as set forth in Claim 4, wherein the air intake system comprises a throttle valve that regulates an amount of the air, the blocking device comprises the throttle valve.

6. The watercraft as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the air intake system comprises a throttle valve that regulates an amount of the air, the blocking device comprises the throttle valve.

7. The watercraft as set forth in Claim 6, wherein the control device controls the throttle valve to move to a substantially closed position based upon the output of the overturn switch.

8. The watercraft as set forth in Claim 7, wherein the control device disables the engine from being started after a preset period of time after the operation of the engine has been stopped.

9. The watercraft as set forth in Claim 7, wherein the control device allows the throttle valve to open during a preset period of time after the operation of the engine has been stopped.

10. The watercraft as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the sensor comprises a lanyard switch assembly that is activated when a human operator of the watercraft is separated from the hull.

11. A watercraft comprising a hull, an internal combustion engine disposed in the hull, the engine having an air intake system through which air is delivered to a

combustion chamber of the engine, the air intake system having a throttle valve that regulates an amount of the air, a sensor arranged to detect overturn of the hull, and a control device configured to control the throttle valve to move to a substantially closed position based upon the output of the sensor.

12. The watercraft as set forth in Claim 11, wherein the sensor comprises an overturn switch installed on the hull.

13. The watercraft as set forth in Claim 11, wherein the control device disables the engine from being started until a preset period of time elapses after the operation of the engine has been stopped.

14. A watercraft comprising a hull, an internal combustion engine disposed in the hull, a sensor arranged to detect overturn of the hull, means for stopping an operation of the engine based upon an output of the sensor, and means for inhibiting water from moving toward the combustion chamber based upon the output of the sensor.

15. A method for inhibiting water from entering a combustion chamber of an engine, comprising determining whether a watercraft hull overturns, stopping an operation of the engine if the watercraft hull overturns, and blocking water from moving toward the combustion chamber based upon the signal.

16. The method as set forth in Claim 15, wherein blocking comprises moving a throttle valve of the engine to a substantially closed position to block the water from moving toward the combustion chamber.

17. The method as set forth in Claim 15 additionally comprising detecting an excessive inclination of the watercraft hull over a preset inclination.

18. The method as set forth in Claim 15 additionally comprising determining whether a preset period of time elapsed after the engine has been stopped, and disabling the engine from being started until the preset period of time has elapsed.